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Statement submitted by International Council of Nurses, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

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Statement

The International Council of Nurses is pleased that significant progress has been made across all goals and millions of lives have been saved in the global efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. As clearly documented, nurses are an integral part of this progress.

At this time of transition to the sustainable development goals, we would like to highlight the need for a more system-wide investment with primary focus on health promotion and prevention of illness and other unhealthy conditions. While setting the Millennium Development Goals successfully mobilized global resources to reduce mortality from the targeted diseases and among specific groups, we have seen the inefficiencies of this approach such as service duplication and fragmentation. As countries are accelerating efforts towards universal health coverage, there is a clear need for strong, well-equipped and well-staffed health-care systems in order to continuously provide good quality health-care services to all people in need.

In addition, the International Council of Nurses supports the intersectoral actions to health. Nurses are the frontline responders to a range of health problems as a result of factors that are beyond health sector control. We believe that health must be considered in non-health goals including poverty, nutrition, water and sanitation, environment, education, human rights, gender and equity, disaster risk reduction and transport.

Nurses' contributions to achieving global development goals include both at the point of care and at the policy decision-making table. As prime health-care service providers, nurses can provide quantitative and qualitative data to inform evidence-based policy development. To ensure smooth transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals, and to keep the momentum and accelerate the efforts to achieve health for all, the International Council of Nurses encourages the involvement of nurses both in health and non-health policy design, planning and implementation at national, regional and international levels.